

LXCA Configuration Patterns

David Roberts | Configuration Patterns – 4/15/2015

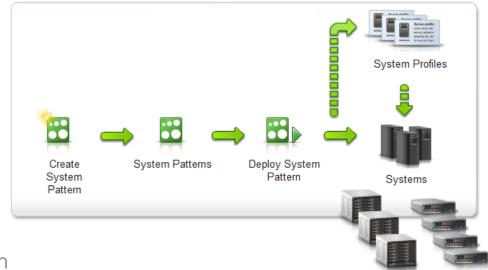


Configuration Patterns Introduction

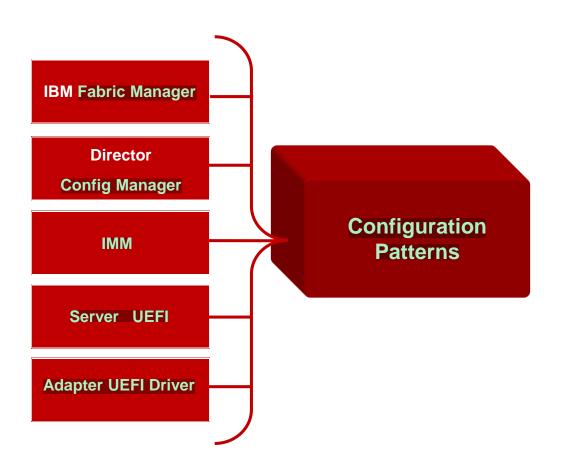
An integrated configuration management solution that simplifies the end-to-end task of provisioning System x hardware resources

Client Value

- Reduce time spent on hardware rollout
 - Deploy pre-OS configuration to multiple devices from a single pattern
 - Integrate device configuration into single interface and workflow local storage, IMM, UEFI, I/O adapter and VNIC settings, virtual MAC/WWN addressing, SAN boot target
- Centralized pattern based management of configuration lifecycle
 - Consistent configuration baseline
 - Change configuration of multiple devices from a single interface
- Enable support for pre-configuration of ordered hardware, before physical acquisition
 - Pre-provision hardware by deploying placeholder configurations



Configuration Patterns: Integrated Solution



- Consolidate operations into 1 unified solution that provides 1-to-many automation
- Guided approach to creating pools, patterns, and profiles
- Create reference patterns by capturing from existing hardware
- Tight binding of configurations to managed devices
- Propagation of pattern configuration changes
- Assistance with device/pattern differences



Configuration Patterns: Differences from IBM FSM version

- Chassis Pattern support not available
 - Chassis component (Nodes, CMM, IOMs, etc) network configuration available Chassis Component Network Configuration UI
- Compute node failover support not available
 - Manual failover supported via profile deactivate / reactivate
- In order to clarify confusion related to server profile actions, some terminology changes have been implemented
 - Deploy profile is now called "Activate Profile"
 - Unassign profile is now called "De-activate Profile"
 - Profile status states are now 'Active' and 'Inactive'
 - Deploy Pattern action remains unchanged



Configuration Patterns: New Features

- User defined Ethernet & Fibre address pools
 - User supplied definition of address ranges
- Virtual address usage reporting
 - Expand support to include a view of the active ports and assigned addresses
- Pattern compatibility confirmation before deployment
 - Provide user with ability to review and confirm compatibility with servers before proceeding with deployment
- Parallel Deployment
 - Process queue in parallel, improving deploy processing time
- Pre-defined UEFI Patterns
 - Provide client with predefined UEFI patterns that match ATS recommendations for common workloads (Low Latency, Virtualization, etc)
- Import & Export of Patterns
 - REST API support for importing and exporting server pattern and associated category patterns



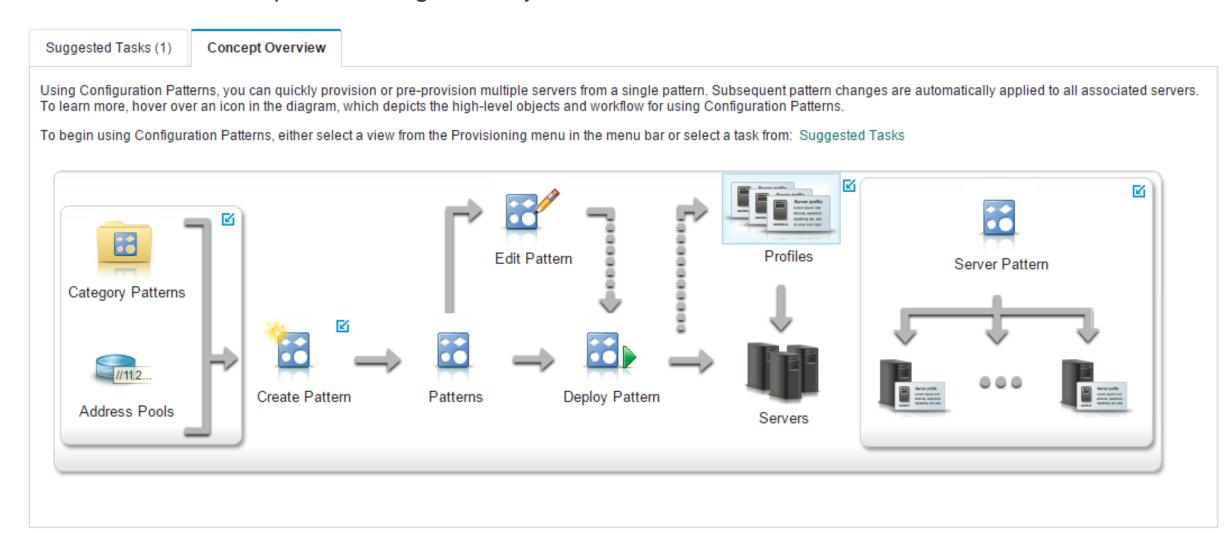
Configuration Patterns: Hardware Enhancements

- Broaden compute node configuration extending support to rack based systems
 - Integrate rack servers with Flex node workflow, avoid dissimilar experiences
 - Support RAID, I/O Adapter, & IMM/UEFI Settings
 - Address virtualization not supported
- Supported Servers:
 - x3550 M5, x3650 M5, x3960 X6
- Provide support for key chassis switch configuration
 - Add key switch configuration functions for Lenovo Flex chassis Ethernet switches
 - Focused on functions that require coordination of ITE level and Chassis switch configuration
 - eg. vNIC/UFP & VLAN ID tags

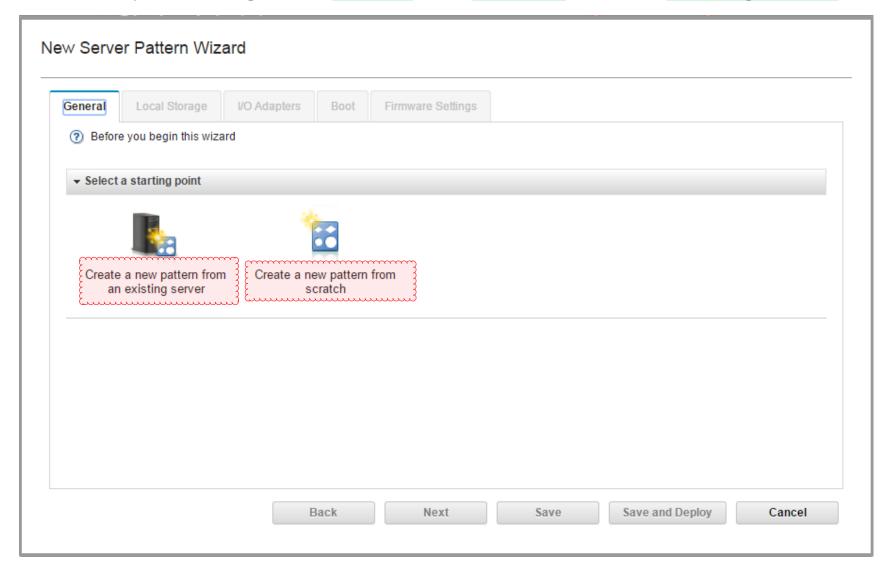


Configuration Patterns: Getting Started

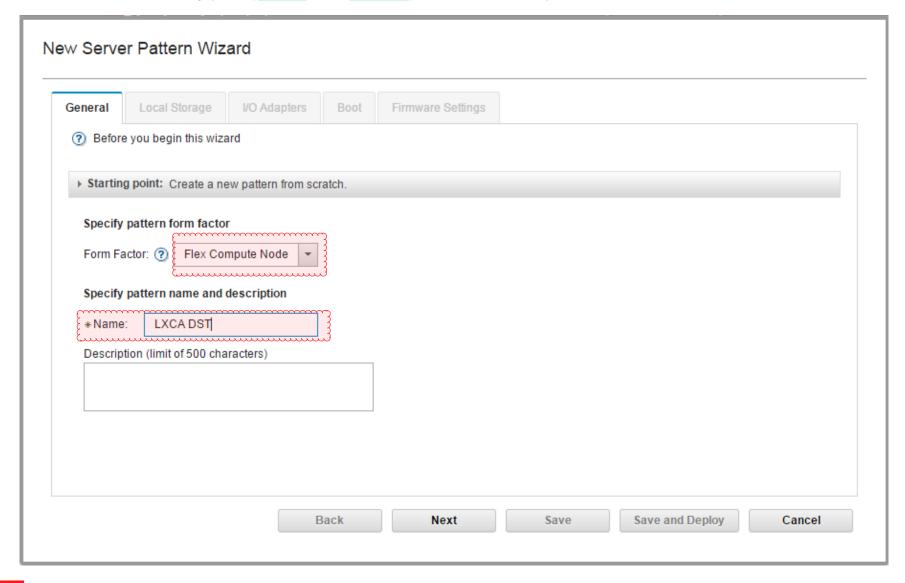
Introduction to concepts, including user objects and workflow



User starts by selecting either create from scratch or from existing server

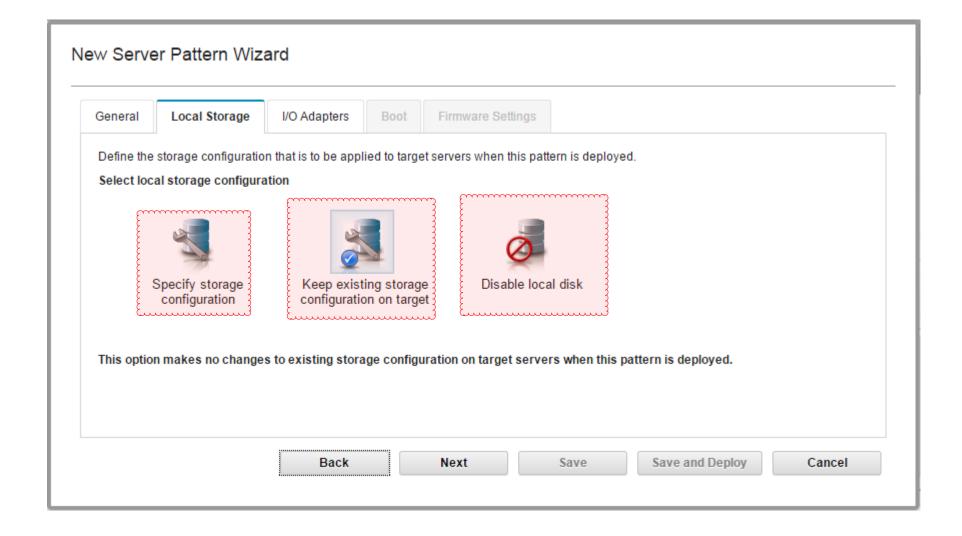


Select server type (Flex vs Rack) and enter pattern name



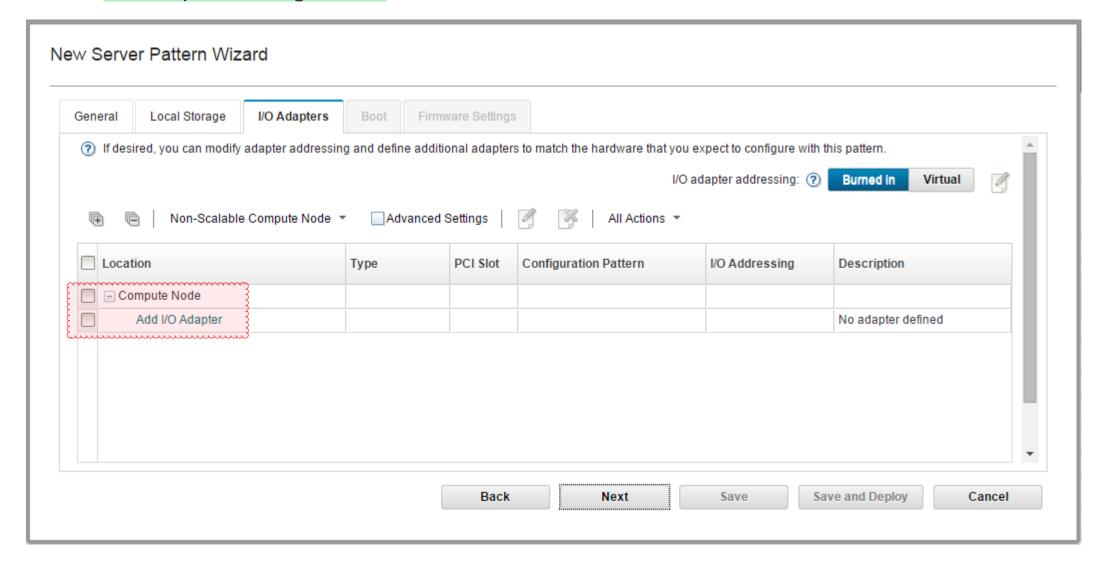


Local Storage: Basic RAID Boot volume, keep existing, or disable for SAN boot





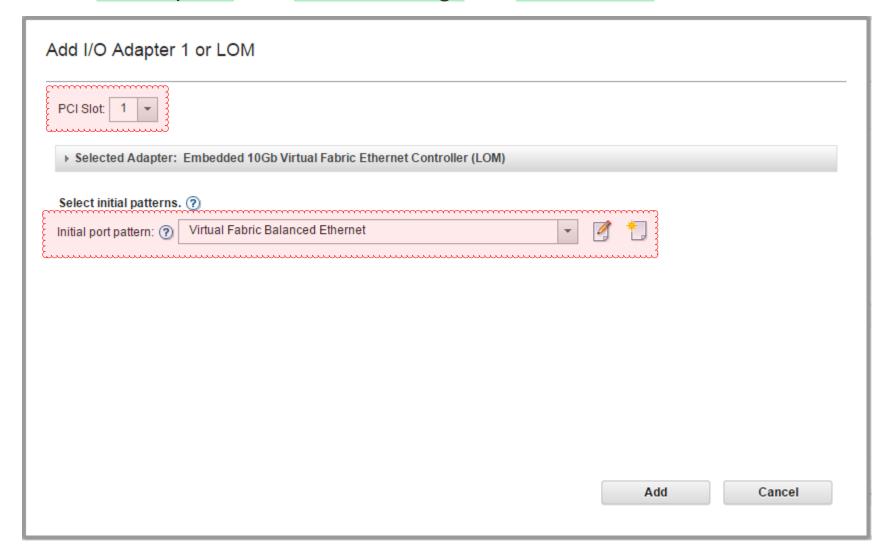
Define IO Adapter configuration





Configuration Patterns: IO Adapter

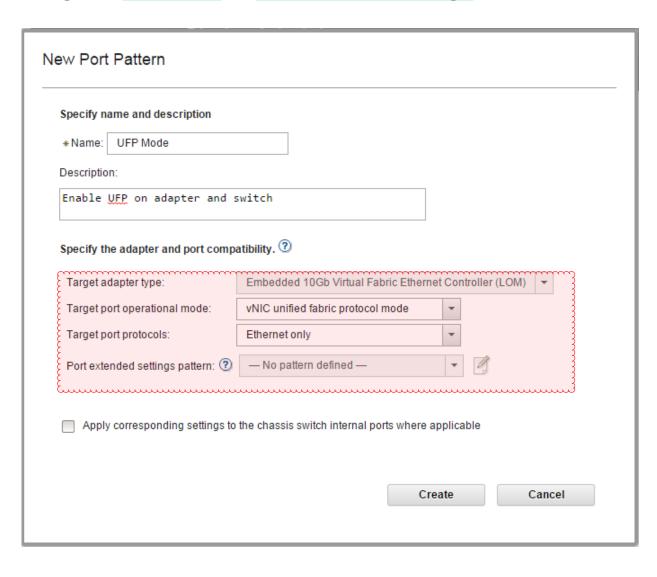
Select IO Adapters and define settings via Port Pattern





Configuration Patterns: Port Pattern

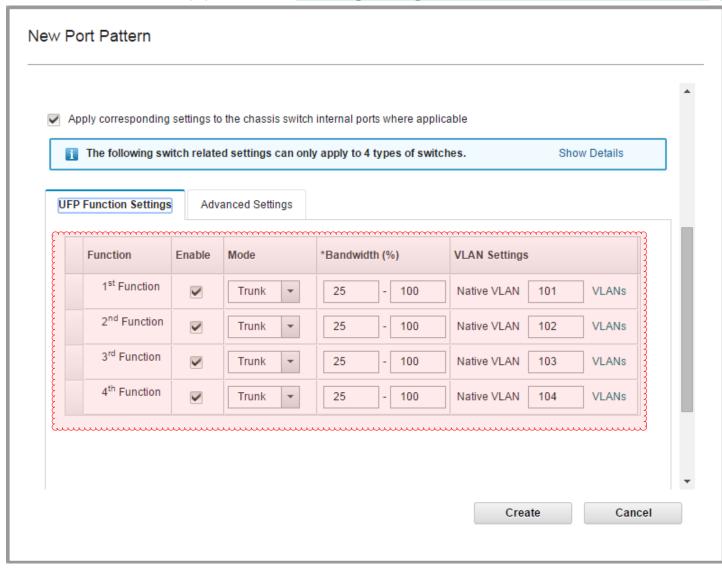
Configure Ethernet & Fibre Port Settings



- Port Virtualization Settings
 - -vNIC, UFP Mode
- Storage Protocols
 - FCoE, iSCSI enablement
- Extended Settings
 - Learned adapter settings for advanced
 Ethernet and Fibre Channel settings

Configuration Patterns: Port Pattern, Chassis Ethernet Switch Support

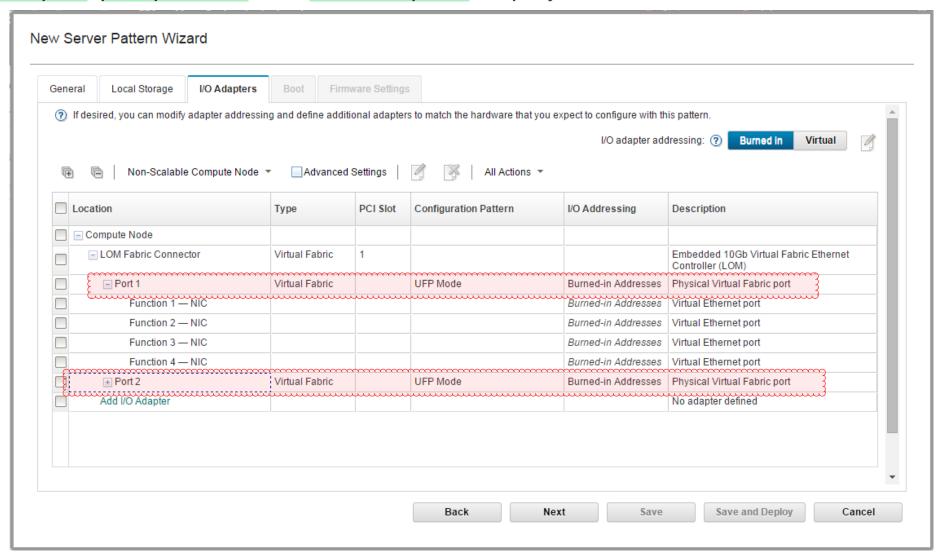
New in LXCA, Support for configuring chassis Ethernet switch internal port settings



- Supported on Lenovo branded chassis switches:
 - -EN4093R, CN4093, SI4093 & SI4091
 - Integrates configuration that requires coordination node and chassis switch configuration
 - Including, UFP Port Provisioning,
 VLAN Membership, flow control and failover

Configuration Patterns: IO Adapter View

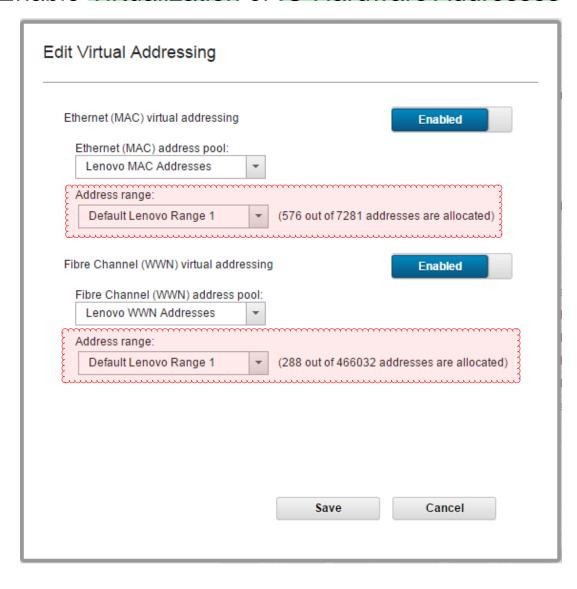
Adapter, port patterns and enabled ports displayed





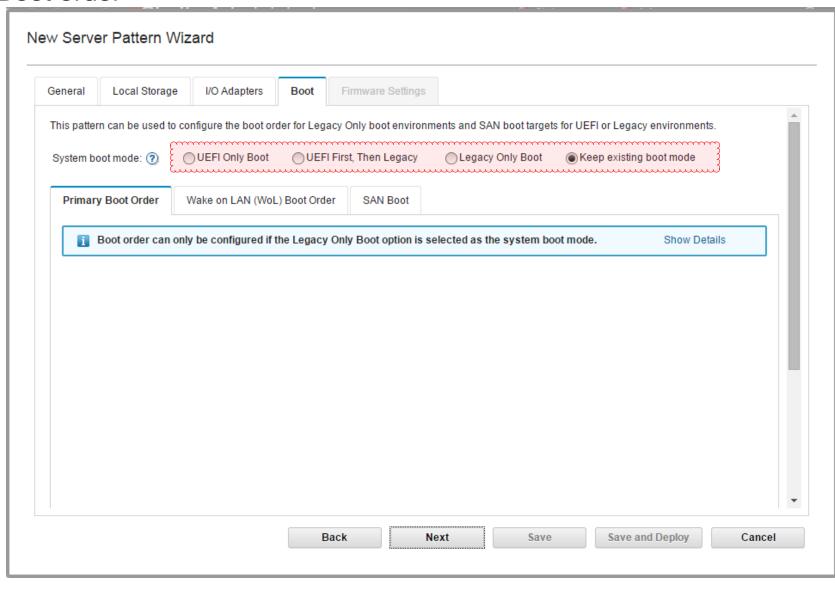
Configuration Patterns: Address Virtualization

Enable Virtualization of IO Hardware Addresses



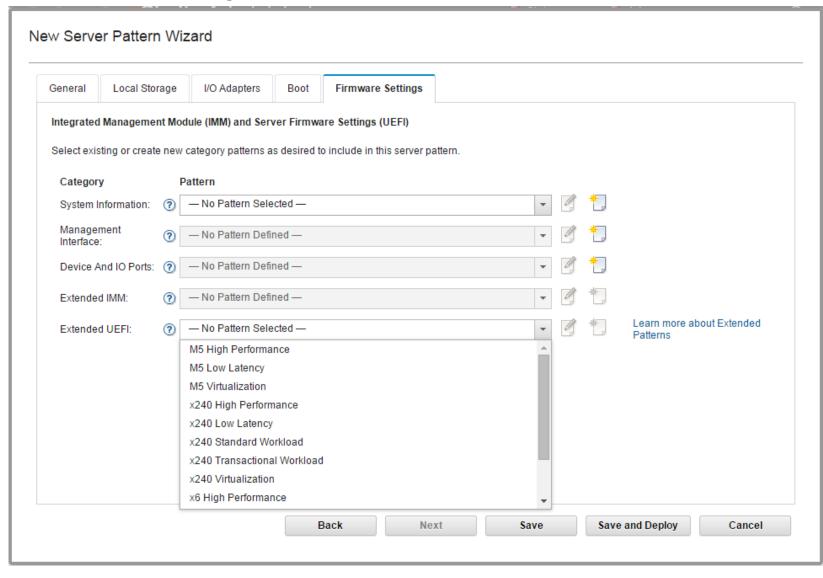
- Virtual addressing
 - Provides ability to re-assign or "virtualize" IO Adapter Ethernet and Fibre port addresses, overriding burned in addresses
- Enables SAN Boot manual failover
 - By assigning addresses to a profile instead of burned in, profiles can be deactivated and activated to a new node upon node failure
- New in LXCA, support for defining custom address pools
 - Users can now define custom addresses pool sizes & starting addresses

Boot order



- Most useful for legacy boot
 - UEFI Oses typically modify
 the boot order as part of install
 - Defining boot order most useful for legacy boot installations

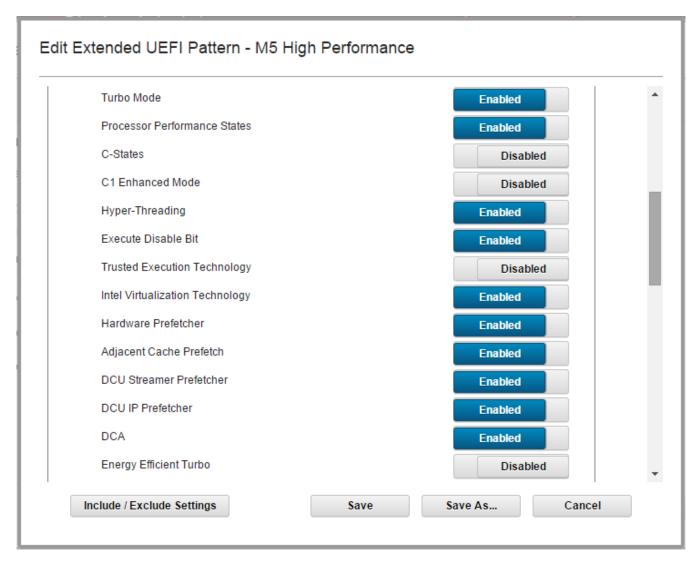
Firmware Settings



- Patterns for modifying:
 - System info, including location & device name
 - Management Interface,
 IMM IP, Hostname
 - Device & IO Ports, Console redirection & SOL
 - Extended IMM & UEFISettings

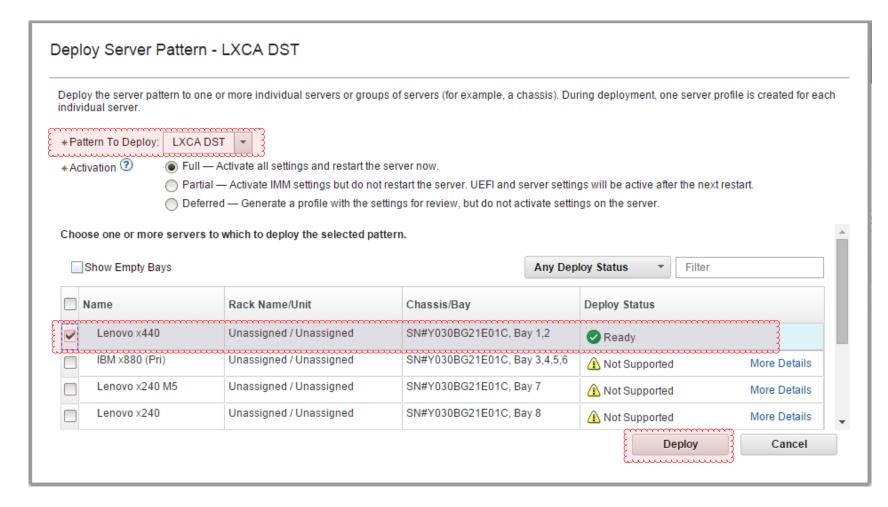
Configuration Patterns: Extended UEFI Patterns

New in LXCA, Pre-defined UEFI Patterns



- Pre-defined, ATS provided best practices, optimized UEFI settings for typical workloads
 - Virtualization (hypervisors)
 - High Performance
 - Low Latency
 - Transactional workloads

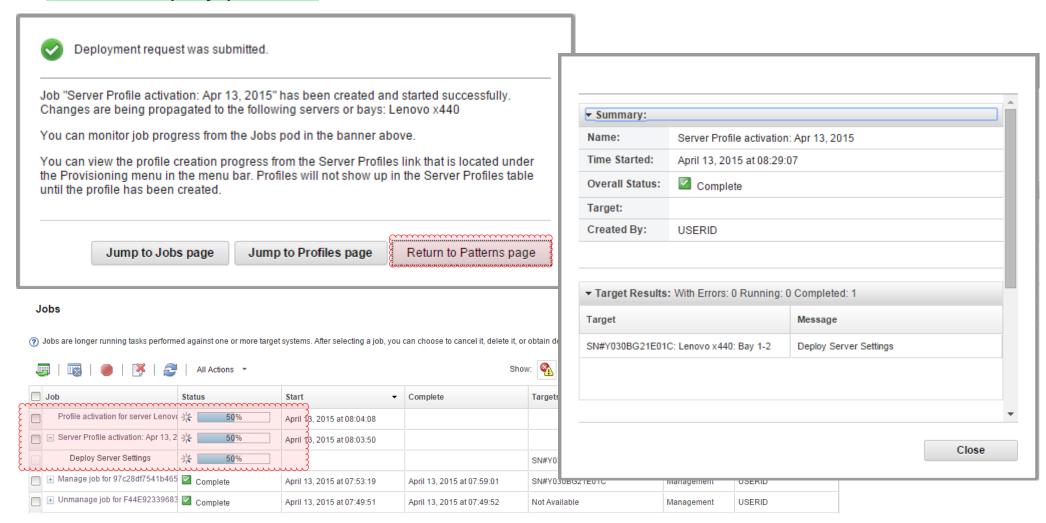
Configuration Patterns: Deploy Server Compatibility Verification



- Ensures server has minimum required firmware levels
- Server is available and not locked by another provisioning activity
- Validates selected Adapter Port Pattern is compatible with server

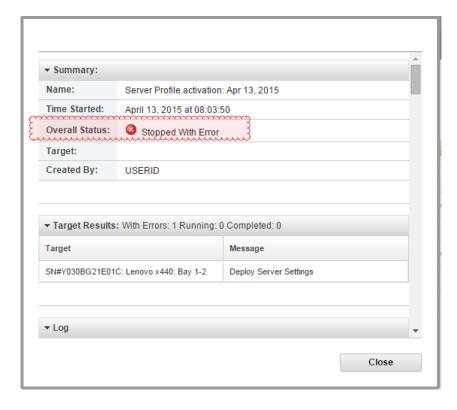
Configuration Patterns: Job Status

Monitor deploy process via Jobs UI





Configuration Patterns: Troubleshooting



- Most failures are captured and logged via the job log
 - Errors communicating with server
 - Failure to restart server
 - Incompatible settings
- Detailed failure data captured via FFDC captures
 - Capture ID: 5101
 - Includes logs, & diagnostic data
 - Archive of persisted user data, including created patterns, profiles & pools

